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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,714	02/05/2004	Donald Cho Lam Yu	252503-1010	5623

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EXAMINER

GRANT, ROBERT J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2838

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/772,714

Applicant(s)

YU, DONALD CHO LAM

Examiner

Robert Grant

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, and 4-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-5-04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jeng (US 6,289,180).

As to Claim 1, Jeng discloses a method for charge control of a photoflash capacitor comprising the steps of: detecting a voltage on the photoflash capacitor (Column 4, lines 30-33); asserting and then latching a recharge signal when the detected voltage is lower than a first reference voltage (Column 4 lines 49-56); de-asserting and then latching the recharge signal when the detected voltage is higher than a second reference voltage (Column 4, lines 38-45); charging the photoflash capacitor when the recharge signal is asserted (Column 4, lines 49-56); and providing a pin for connection of a resistive element which determines the first reference voltage (Column 4, lines 30-33).

As to Claim 3, Jeng discloses a photoflash capacitor charger operating in conjunction with a microprocessor, comprising: a transformer receiving a primary input voltage to induce a secondary output voltage on a photoflash capacitor

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when a recharge signal is asserted (Figure 2, element 203); and a recharge controller detecting a voltage on the photoflash capacitor, asserting and then latching the recharge signal when the detected voltage is lower than a first reference voltage, and de-asserting and then latching the recharge signal when the detected voltage is higher than a second reference voltage (column 4, lines 38-56); wherein the first reference voltage is determined by the microprocessor (Figure 5, element 514).

As to Claim 10, Jeng discloses the photoflash capacitor charger as claimed in claim 3 further comprising a voltage divider coupled with the photoflash capacitor in parallel, having a first and second resistor connected in series, and generating the detected voltage divided from a voltage difference across the photoflash capacitor (column 4, lines 30-31, elements 242 and 244).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 2 and 4-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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Claim 2 recites, inter alia, a method for charging a photoflash capacitor by asserting and de-asserting a second output signal respectively when the detected voltage is higher and lower than the second reference voltage.

Claims 4-9 recite, inter alia, a photoflash charger control including a second comparator circuit asserting and de-asserting a second output signal respectively when the detected voltage is higher and lower than a second reference voltage.

5. Claim 11-14 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 11-14 recite, inter alia, a recharge control for a photoflash capacitor comprising multiple components and connections. Individually these components are commonly found, though there is no motivation found in the art of record for combining and connecting the components as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Grant whose telephone number is 571-272-2727. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RG

  
KARL EASTHOM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER